



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

March 22, 2006

Dear School Administrator/District Homeless Liaison:

The Department of Public Instruction's (department) Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (EHCY) is offering Wisconsin school districts an opportunity to apply for a three-year McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act grant, starting with the 2006-07 school year. While the intent of the three-year grant cycle is to assure awarded districts continued funding over three academic years, grant awards may vary each year, depending upon the United States Department of Education annual federal funding award received by the department.

The department will award three-year EHCY program federal grants on a competitive basis using the following criterion:

1. The numbers of homeless children and youth that will be served in the program.
2. The educational and support service needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
3. The quality of the proposed program, including how the proposed use of funds will facilitate identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
4. The extent to which the program will help to reduce the achievement gap.

The application and guidelines for the EHCY grant program are attached. Applications need to be postmarked no later than April 30, 2006. Application forms can also be found on the department's homeless program webpage at <http://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/index.html> under "Grant Application."

Questions about the application can be addressed to Mary Maronek, Coordinator, EHCY program at mary.maronek@dpi.state.wi.us or (608) 261-6322. Best wishes on your continued work to help homeless children and youth in your district be academically successful.

Sincerely,

Margaret Planner, Ph.D.
Assistant State Superintendent
Division for Reading and Student Achievement

MP:mm